(Rs./crore)

Year ending March	MSME Sector		Industrial Sector	
	Total credit	% growth over previous year	Total credit	% growth over previous year
2006	1,46,719	—	5,50,444	—
2007	1,84,589	25.81	6,97,334	26.68
2008	2,43,796	32.07	8,71,900	25.03

(c) Government have announced special stimulus packages on 7.12.2008 and 2.01.2009 respectively, apart from other measures, to improve and enhance the credit flow to MSME sector. The measures include: Special Refinance Facility of Rs. 7000 crore through SIDBI, Restructuring of SME loans, Prudential guidelines on restructuring, MSME (Refinance) Fund and MSME (Risk Capital) Fund with SIDBI, enhancement of collateral free loans from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.1 crore and increased collateral free guarantee cover to 85% for loans upto Rs.5 lakh under Credit Guarantee Scheme, reduction of fee of Credit Guarantee Scheme, Enactment of the MSMED Act 2006, focusing on clusters, constitution of Standing Advisory Committee by RBI, Constitution of National Board for MSME, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, etc.

Funds for bailing out financial institutions

461. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated by the Reserve Bank of India as part of its bailout of various financial institutions and Non-Banking Financial Companies through its various schemes as a lender of last resort for the last three years; and

(b) what are the terms of use of such taxpayers' funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In year 2006-07, RBI allocated an amount of Rs. 24 crore for a period of 45 days at the rate of interest of Bank Rate plus 4.0 per cent per annum against the collateral of excess SLR securities. The said amount was not availed.

2007-08 — Nil

2008-09 — Nil

Fradulent practices by private insurance companies

462. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unscrupulous insurance companies in private sector are rejecting claims of the aggrieved insurers on the pretext of cheques for premium being dishonoured, solely due to the delay on the part of the company to encash the cheques;

(b) whether there have been deliberate attempt on the part of the insurance companies to delay encashment of cheques beyond a reasonable time, just to invalidate the currency of the policy and to reject the claims; and

(c) if so, whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority will evolve guidelines for prompt encashment of premium cheques by the insurance companies and such other protection the insurer is entitled to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that it does not have information in this regard. However, a complaint has been received by IRDA recently from an insured against an insurer, which indicates that one of the cheques was dishonored on account of insufficiency of funds.

(c) To protect the interest of policyholders, IRDA has already notified the IRDA (Protection of Policyholders' Interest Regulations in 2002. These *inter-alia*, require that insurance companies should have adequate standards of servicing of policyholders and also casts a duty upon the companies to promptly address the issues and concerns of the policyholders. Further, the Insurance Act, 1938 clearly mandates the manner of receipt of premium and assumption of risk.

Available foreign exchange reserve of the country

†463. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange available in the country;

(b) the names of the countries whose currencies are available in the Foreign Exchange Reserve of the country;

(c) the amount invested by Reserve Bank of India during the last three years from the said Reserve; and

(d) the effect of non-utilization of these reserves for productive work on the prices of commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Foreign Exchange Reserves comprising Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), Gold, Special Drawing Rights and Reserve Tranche Position with IMF stood at US $ 251.5 billion as on February 6, 2009, of which FCA component was US $ 241.8 billion.

(b) The Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs) are maintained as a multi currency portfolio comprising major currencies such as US Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling, Japanese Yen etc.

(c) Keeping in view the guiding objectives of safety, liquidity and optimization of returns under foreign exchange reserve management, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) invests FCA in multi-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.